

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 195907

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
USDEL JEC PARIS
USLO PEKING
USSAG NAKHON PHANOM
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
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PAGE 02 STATE 195907

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
SUBJECT: OCTOBER 2, 1973 PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. KI RETAKE TWO POSTS 11 MI. SOUTH OF PP. REBELS FORCE FANK FROM KOMPONG KONTOUT AND KOMPONG TUOL ON SOUTH BANK OF PREK THNOT RIVER; SEVERAL SOLDIERS DROWN WHILE SWIMMING RIVER IN RETREAT (UPI CHITRIB, NYDN). LOSS LEAVES ENEMY IN POSITION SIMILAR TO LAST JULY (NYDN). KI APPLY PRESSURE BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF PP (AP, WP).

2. GKR SPOKESMAN SAYS 8 KHMER NAVY SUPPLY SHIPS ARRIVE KOMPONG CHAM FROM PP WITHOUT INCIDENT. FANK RECAPTURES PAGODA AND DIKE OUTSIDE OF KOMPONG CHAM IN PUSH TOWARD SURROUNDED AIRPORT (AP, WP). GKR FORCES DRIVE KI FROM REMAINS OF WHAT WAS CAMBODIA'S LARGEST TEXTILE MILL, JUST WEST OF KOMPONG CHAM (CSM).

3. HSIHUA REPORTS PEKING ARRIVAL OF SIHANOUK'S DAUGHTER BOTUM BOTHA AND HER CHILDREN. TRAVELED BY AIR FROM PP VIA PARIS (AP, SUN).

4. GVN CLAIMS 153 ENEMY KILLED IN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTACK ON ARVN TROOPS GUARDING HIGHWAY 26 AT KHIEM HANH, 40 MILES NW OF SAIGON (CSM, SUN, NYT, WP, CHITRIB

AP; REUTER; UPI). GVN ALSO ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO RETAKE LE MINH RANGER CAMP, OVERRUN BY NVN TANKS LAST WEEK (REUTER). PRESIDENT THIEU REPEATED GVN CLAIM THAT KHIEM HANH AND LE MINH ATTACKS HERALD START OF NEW COMMUNIST MILITARY OFFENSIVE THAT WILL GO INTO HIGH GEAR BY EARLY 1974 (CSM). BRIG GEN. VU VAN GIAI SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS HARD LABOR BY MILITARY COURT FOR ABANDONING QUANG TRI CITY IN 1972 SPRING OFFENSIVE. GIAI'S LAWYER, A RELATIVE OF THIEU, HAD CONTENTED IN DEFENSE THAT US DELIBERATELY WITHHELD AIR SUPPORT SO THAT QUANG TRI WOULD FALL AND GIVE THE US PRETEXT TO BOMB AND MINE NVN (REUTER, NYT). GVN DEVALUED UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 195907

PIASTER AGAIN, APPARENTLY IN ATTEMPT TO BOOST EXPORTS (REUTER).

CHINA

5. WP (MCCARDLE) AND NYT REPORT ON PRCLO'S SOCIAL DEBUT WITH NATIONAL DAY MAYFLOWER BASH FOR ABOUT 1000 US OFFICIALS, OTHER AMERICANS OF ALL STRIPES AND LOCAL CHINESE, AS WELL AS MRS. BRUCE, IN TOWN FROM PEKING. MCCARDLE QUOTES DEPSEC RUSH, SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ATTENDING, AS SAYING HAK "WILL BE IN CHINA AT THE END OF THE MONTH". MOST SENATORS PRESENT HAD BEEN TO CHINA OR, LIKE KENNEDY, WOULD "LOVE TO GO SOMETIME", BUT FULBRIGHT SAID "STONILY" HE HAS

NO PLANS TO GO TO CHINA. MAYOR AND MRS. WASHINGTON SAID THEY HADN'T BEEN INVITED BUT WOULD LIKE TO BE.

6. MOSCOW GREET'S PRC NATIONAL DAY WITH BITTER PRAVDA ATTACK ON MAO, CHARGING HIM WITH "BETRAYING THE REVOLUTION" (WP; AP CSM, CHITRIB; AP, PHINQ). SUN'S MOSCOW BUREAU DISPATCH SAYS PRAVDA COMMENTARY SEEMED TO BRING SOVIET ALMOST TO POINT OF DECLARING PRC NON-SOCIALIST COUNTRY WITHOUT COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP. SO FAR, MOSCOW HAS CONFINED ITS CHINA ATTACKS TO ACCUSATIONS OF HERESY; BUT KREMLIN "NOW SEEMS TO BE SEEKING SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS TO READ CHINA OUT OF THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT COMPLETELY." NOTES IZVESTIA JOINED PRAVDA IN ASSERTING THAT THERE IS NO REASON FOR SINO-SOVIET ESTRANGEMENT EXCEPT MAO AND HIS SUPPORTERS, AND EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS TO SETTLE STATE-TO-STATE DISPUTES ON PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE.

7. WP'S GREENWAY, IN HK, REPORTS THAT PRC PUBLICATIONS' NATIONAL DAY EMPHASIS ON NEED TO STUDY 10TH PARTY

CONGRESS DOCUMENTS HAS LED SOME CHINA WATCHERS TO CONCLUDE THAT BALANCE STRUCK BETWEEN CHOU'S MODERATE APPROACH AND CULTURAL REVOLUTION'S IDEALS MAY NEED FURTHER EXPLAINING BEFORE FULLY UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 195907

IN CHINA. "IT COULD BE THAT SOME OF THE WORKER-PEASANT-SOLDIER CADRES ARE CONFUSED OVER JUST WHAT THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION ACCOMPLISHED, WHY IT WAS NECESSARY," AND HOW ONE SO CLOSE TO TOP AS LIN PIAO COULD COMMIT TREASON. EXPERTS SEE NATIONAL DAY EDITORIAL ANSWERING THAT THERE IS DISTINCTION BETWEEN LIN'S CRIMES AND ERRORS OF JUDGMENT THAT CAN BE RECTIFIED. NYT'S LELYVELD, IN HK, REPORTS POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS HEARD THERE FOR MAO'S FAILURE TO APPEAR AT CELEBRATIONS. FINDS IT "EXTREMELY DIFFICULT" TO CREDIT SUGGESTION THAT CHINESE AUTHORITIES DOUBT THEIR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN PHYSICAL SECURITY FOR MAO IN CENTER OF PEKING; ALSO DISMISSES ANSWER THAT MAO HAS GROWN WEARY OF ADULATION. INDICATES MOST PERSUASIVE EXPLANATION COULD BE THAT MAO STILL IS WITHHOLDING FULL ENDORSEMENT OF CHOU'S POLICIES.

8. MAIDENBERG (NYT) REPORTS US MIDWEST GRAIN TRADE SOURCES SAY PRC IS NEGOTIATING TO BUY LARGE ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES OF NORTH AMERICAN GRAIN DESPITE PROSPECTS OF RECORD CHINA HARVEST THIS YEAR. US OFFICIALS SAY THEY ARE TRYING SUBSTANTIATE REPORTS THAT CHINA HAS CONTRACTED TO BUY 3 MILLION TONS OF US CORN.

9. PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY OFFICIAL SAYS HIS LATEST

ESTIMATE OF ADDITIONAL TRADE AT NEW CHINA TERMINAL
OPENING JAN. 1 IN LONDON'S DOCKS IS 100,000 TONS PER
YEAR (JOC).

10. DIRECT SATELLITE PHONE LINK OPENS BETWEEN CANADA
AND PRC (AP, PHINQ).

11. CNA REPORTS MME. CHIANG KAI-SHEK LEFT TAIPEI
EN ROUTE TO VISIT ILL SISTER, MRS. H. H. KUNG, HOSPITALIZED
IN NY (REUTER, SUN). NYT'S KREBS DESCRIBES MRS. "H.K."
KUNG AS GIMO'S SISTER.

JAPAN

12. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH HEAD OF PRC ECON MISSION,
INTERNATIONAL OIL TRADING CO. OFFICIAL SAYS JAPAN
HOPES TO IMPORT ABOUT 3 MILLION TONS OF CHINESE OIL
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 195907

NEXT YEAR. SAYS PIPELINES NOW BEING LAID FROM TACHING
TO DAIREN AND OTHER PRC PORTS (WP).

13. TANAKA AND OHIRA CONFERRED WITH BRITISH COUNTERPARTS
2 HOURS MONDAY ON WIDE RANGE OF POLITICAL AND ECON
PROBLEMS. BRITISH SAY THEY AGREED TRY TO BUILD CLOSER
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEIR COUNTRIES; ALSO AGREED
IN PRINCIPLE ON NEED TO WORK OUT SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT
FOR TRIANGULAR COOPERATION AMONG COMMART, US AND JAPAN
(JOC).

14. NYT'S HALLORAN, IN TOKYO, REGARDS CRITICISM OF
LDP LEADERSHIP MONDAY BY 3 JUNIOR PARTY MEMBERS AS
EVIDENCE OF DEEP DISSATISFACTION WITHIN LDP. YOUNGER
MEMBERS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT SECURITY QUESTION, "INDECISIVE
AND UNIMAGINATIVE" TANAKA LEADERSHIP, JCP GAINS AND
POSSIBLE CONSTITUTION REVISION -- ALTHOUGH THEY DISAGREE
ON WHAT NEEDS REVISION.

DALAI LAMA

15. DALAI LAMA ARRIVED IN GENEVA MONDAY TO RECEPTION
"ABOUT AS COLD AS THE BITTER NORTH WIND THAT SWEEPED
ACROSS THE AIRPORT RUNWAYS," OBSERVES NYT. GENEVA
PROTOCOL OFFICER SAYS TRIP WAS "COMPLETELY PRIVATE"
AND DL WOULD NOT BE RECEIVED EITHER BY FEDERAL OR
GENEVA STATE OFFICIALS. AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY PLAYING
DOWN VISIT IN ORDER NOT RUFFLE PRC SENSIBILITIES;
UNDERSTOOD THAT HE WILL MAKE NO STATEMENTS OR INDULGE
IN ACTIVITIES OF POLITICAL NATURE WHILE IN GENEVA,
ALTHOUGH HE WILL CONFER WITH OFFICIALS OF WORLD COUNCIL
OF CHURCHES.

ANZ

16. BACK IN WELLINGTON, PM KIRK SAYS HE EXPECTS NEW MARKET FOR NZ BUTTER TO DEVELOP IN US WITHIN FEW YEARS. SAYS US DAIRY PRODUCTION FALLING OFF BECAUSE FARMERS SWITCHING TO MORE PROFITABLE, LESS DEMANDING FIELDS
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 195907

(AP, NYDN).

17. NYT'S TRUMBULL, IN SYDNEY, REPORTS THAT ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCE RESPONSE, LOCAL AND FOREIGN, INDICATES NEW OPERA HOUSE IS "SMASH HIT."

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

18. RICHARD CRITCHFIELD (NATION MAGAZINE, OCT. 1) IN BANGKOK REPORTS US PLANS MUCH SMALLER BUT SEMI-PERMANENT MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND, BASED ON UNDERSTANDINGS WITH RTG FOR RAPID USAF REDEPLOYMENT, IF NEEDED, DURING NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS. CITES AMBASSADOR UNGER AS SAYING "THERE HAS TO BE A DETERRENT FORCE IN THIS AREA TO MAKE SURE THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENTS DO IN FACT TAKE HOLD AND LAST." DESCRIBES ALSO COMMUNIST CAPABILITIES IN INDOCHINA, AS WELL AS THAILAND, WHICH PROMPT THAI GENERALS TO SUPPORT CONTINUED US MILITARY PRESENCE; HOWEVER, FEELS THAT CREDIBILITY OF THREAT OF RENEWED BOMBING IS PRESENTLY ALMOST NIL. US POLICY ALSO AFFECTED BY PARALYSIS IN WASHINGTON SINCE WATERGATE AND REPERCUSSIONS OF THE APPARENTLY SERIOUS GROWING POLARIZATION BETWEEN AMERICAN LIBERALS AND CONSERVATIVES. CONCLUDES BY QUOTING US OFFICIAL WHO SUMMED UP CURRENT THINKING: "THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF THINGS THE COMMUNISTS COULD DO, SUCH AS A SPECTACULAR INVASION OF PHNOM PENH, WHICH MIGHT MAKE AMERICANS AT HOME DESIRE TO RESPOND IN SOME WAY. KNOWING THE COMMUNISTS, THEY WILL PROBABLY DO IT."

19. NYDN'S ALTON SLAGLE (SEPT. 23) SEES CHINESE SUPPORT FOR INSURGENTS IN BURMA PLACING BURMA IN AN UNTENABLE POSITION IN PEKING'S DISPUTE WITH MOSCOW. CITES SOME DIPLOMATS AS BELIEVING THAT CHINA IS SECRETELY AIDING
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 195907

BURMESE REBELS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A STRONG BUFFER SHOULD THE RUSSIANS SUCCEED IN THEIR COURTSHIP OF NE WIN AND ESTABLISH A SOVIET, ANTI-CHINESE BASTION IN BURMA. SAYS PROSPECTS OF AN ASIAN CUBA, A SOVIET BEACHHEAD IN SEA, FRIGHTENS THE CHINESE, WHO LOOK WARILY ACROSS THEIR LONG FRONTIER WITH BURMA AT SIGNS OF MOSCOW WOOLING

RANGOON. MEANWHILE, NOTES THAT NE WIN IS TAKING STEPS TO EASE TENSIONS BUILT UP DURING HIS RULE AND IS READY TO PRESENT NEW CONSTITUTION IN DECEMBER REFERENDUM WHICH WILL BE FOLLOWED BY JANUARY ELECTION OF NATIONAL CONGRESS. OBSERVING THAT WHILE NE WIN AND SEVERAL OF HIS CABINET HAVE RESIGNED FROM ARMY IN ORDER TO HEAD NEW CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT, SLAGLE COMMENTS THAT IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN A CHANGE OF UNIFORMS TO SOLVE BURMA'S PROBLEMS. AFTER 11 YEARS OF MILITARY RULE, DOUBTFUL THAT NE WIN AND HIS COUNCIL WILL BE WILLING TO MOVE TOO FAST IN OPENING UP THE ISOLATIONIST COUNTRY AND RELAXING THEIR FIRM GRIP ON PEOPLE.

20. LAT'S JACK FOISIE (SEPT. 30) IN PATTALUNG REPORTS ON DISSIDENT ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN THAILAND. FINDS FOLLOWING GROUPS INVOLVED: PEKING-ENCOURAGED INSURGENTS ON MALAYSIAN BORDER, MOSLEM SEPARATISTS WHO WANT TO THROW OFF THAI YOKE AND EITHER JOIN MALAYSIA OR BECOME SEPARATE STATE OF PATTANI, AND PURE THAI INSURGENTS WHO SEEM TO RELAT

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